

## Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202 612-673-3250 Fax Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.

mn.us

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700:

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 10-23-12

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours: Tuesday, November 28<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30-11:00am Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

## Items:

- 1) Vote November 6
- Please Vote No on Both
- 3) Xcel Hiawatha Substation
- 4) Longfellow Grill Outdoor Seating Expansion
- 5) Civilian Review Authority Dismantled
- 6) Fall Street Cleaning Begins
- 7) Utility Franchise Work Group
- 8) Gun Violence in Minneapolis
- 9) Garbage Hauling Contract
- 10) 2013 Legislative Agenda
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- Election day is **November 6**. Please remember to vote! You can find your polling place and a sample ballot here (mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx), or here (pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/).
- 2) The Minneapolis City Council has voted to formally oppose both of the constitutional amendments on the ballot this November 6. The first would enshrine anti-gay bigotry in the state constitution, and the second would make it much more difficult to vote in Minnesota elections, with the aim of disenfranchising certain types of people - the elderly, recent immigrants, students, and people living in poverty. I urge you to **vote** no on both.
- Xcel has recently decided to do away with any art walls on the east side of its soon to be built Hiawatha Substation, resulting in an unscreened view of the substation for bike trail users approaching from the east. There will be an Xcel Open House on October 30th, from 5 - 7 p.m., at Plaza Verde (1516 E. Lake Street) where you can learn more about the change and share your opinions about the new design. You can also share your comments directly with the state of MN/Public Utilities Commission by emailing Bill Storm at bill.storm@state.mn.us. People should send in comments before October 31. More information, plus a copy of the Midtown Greenway Coalition's resolution, can be found at http://midtowngreenway.org/news-anddevelopments/hiawatha-substation-resolution/
- The Longfellow Grill's application for an additional 24 seats in its outdoor patio has been approved unanimously by the Council, with the conditions, including 1) to pay for a 'no parking' zone on the entire south side of Dorman, 2) find four off street parking places for Grill employees, and 3) install litter receptacles on the patio.
- I voted against the proposal created by the Civil Rights Department to merge the current Civilian Review Authority (CRA) with the Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit. The proposal sharply divided the Council, finally passing 8-5. In my view, this new ordinance essentially dismantles civilian police oversight in Minneapolis, and I am very sorry that I could not stop it. The final plan was opposed by the Star Tribune, in addition to five Council Members, and drew sharp criticism from the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. For more analysis, please see my blog.
- 6) The Council has voted to create a new Utility Franchise Work Group to assist the City in preparing for negotiations regarding its electric and natural gas franchise agreements with public utility companies. I am one of the four Council Members who have been appointed to this Work Group. Among its tasks, the work group will develop a set of policy principles that will guide the city in its franchise discussions; review and consider potential legislative and/or other regulatory changes and

consider formal support for these changes on the City's state legislative agenda; and develop a community engagement program. I am very supportive of having this conversation, and exploring all of our options: renewing the franchise agreements, renegotiating them to include more green energy and energy efficiency, or starting the process to become a municipal power utility.

- 7) The City's fall street cleaning effort will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 23. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible parking will temporarily be prohibited the day each street is cleaned. "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the cleaning and car users will need to follow street sweep parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. The City will use <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a> and <a href="Twitter">Twitter</a> to post information and make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. There's no guarantee that the calls will reach everyone, so residents should be sure to check the schedule and watch for signs. You can also use the City's website to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods: <a href="https://www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweep">www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweep</a>. Visitors to the website will be able to find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. Then, on the weekend before each of the four weeks, the schedule for the upcoming week will be broken down to show which day of the week streets are scheduled to be swept. Street sweeping is also explained in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish as part of the City's "Did you know..." series of short videos that can be viewed on at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/cityofminneapolis">http://www.youtube.com/cityofminneapolis</a> and on City cable channels 14 and 79. Please share links to the this information with as many people as you can.
- 8) Six people were killed on September 27 in a hand gun shooting in a Minneapolis business. Another four people were wounded in a separate shooting on the same day when someone shot into their home. My thoughts and prayers go out the victims, their families, co-workers and other community members devastated by these terrible crimes. These should remind us that we need to work harder to prevent acts of violence and address this epidemic of gun violence head on. It is clear that this is a national, as well as local problem, according to David Hemenway from the Harvard School of Public Health, the United States has a rate of homicide 7 times that of other wealthy nations, driven by a 20-times higher rate of gun homicide. For more you may want to see this new investigation by Mother Jones has found a national trend of rising mass shootings since 1982. Mother Jones also reported a nationwide rollback in gun regulations since 2009 <a href="http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/09/mass-shootings-investigation.">http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/09/mass-shootings-investigation.</a>
- 9) The Transportation and Public Works Committee has held a public hearing to consider and formally announce the City's intent to potentially begin a 180-day process to evaluate options and discuss with the solid waste, garbage and recycling contract, the current contractor and other options for a future contract for collection of garbage, recycling, problem materials (metals and mattresses), and yard wastes for one-half of the City's dwelling units currently served by the private company, Minneapolis Refuse Inc. (MRI). The contract is set to end in January of 2014 and this will keep us on track to maintain competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process for solid waste collection services on a 5-year cycle, as was started in 2007 and provides the opportunity for the city to obtain competitive market pricing.
- 10) This morning, the Council's Committee of the Whole discussed a set of items for the City's 2013 Legislative Agenda that include some interesting new requests. The first is improvements to the Sewer Availability Charges that make it so difficult and expensive for many Longfellow-area businesses to open and expand. Also on the list are a new host of City positions on issues related to bicyclists and pedestrians. If passed two weeks from now, Minneapolis will support the following changes:
  - More flexible state lane-width standards that will allow us to design and build streets that safely meet the needs of all who use them
  - Increased funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programing, including programs that seek
    to incentivize innovation in bicycling infrastructure, with flexibility on design standards
  - Complete Streets policies at all levels
  - Local flexibility to reduce speed limits below 30 MPH for both local residential streets and when accommodating bicycling infrastructure
  - A state level study of the economic impact of bicycling
  - Legislation to make clear that drivers should yield to bicyclists in bike lanes
  - Adding bike lanes to the list of prohibited locations for stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle
- 11) There are more than 186 open positions on 24 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Boards/Commissions. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions visit <a href="http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/index.htm">http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/index.htm</a> To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email <a href="mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov">cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov</a>.